

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00258 261341Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /050 W

----- 017800

R 261235Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1365

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 258

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, UK

SUBJECT: CONTINUING INCREASE IN ULSTER UNEMPLOYMENT

REF: (A) LONDON 11300, (B) BELFAST A-6 OF MARCH 10, 1976

1. NORTHERN IRELAND'S CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM CONTINUED TO WORSEN IN JUNE WITH THE FIGURES FOR THAT MONTH REACHING THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1940 WITH 60,986 UNEMPLOYED. THIS REPRESENTS 11.7 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL JOB FORCE. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURE, EXCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS, STANDS AT 51,800 OR 9.9 PER CENT OF THE WORK FORCE. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 13,100 OVER THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES FOR LAST YEAR AND INDICATES A STEADILY WORKSENSING UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION. THE JULY 20 BELFAST TELEGRAPH, IN REPORTING THE BASIC FIGURES, SUGGESTED THAT THEY "TEND TO GIVE CREDIBILITY TO TRADE UNION WARNINGS THAT UNEMPLOYMENT COULD RISE TO 80,000 BY END OF THE YEAR."

2. WHEN EXAMINED REGIONALLY THE FIGURES REVEAL MANY POCKETS OF SEVERE UNEMPLOYMENT. THE AREA WITH THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT OF THE 13 REPORTING DISTRICTS IS BELFAST WITH 8.9 PERCENT UNEMPLOYED. FOUR OF THE 13 DISTRICTS, HOWEVER, HAD IN EXCESS OF 20 PER CENT UNEMPLOYED AND AN ADDITIONAL FIVE WERE REPORTING UNEMPLOYMENT IN EXCESS OF 15 PERCENT. STRABNE, REFERRED TO BY ONE LOCAL REPORT AS A "DYING CITY IN A DYING AREA" CONTINUE TO LEAD THE REGION WITH 29.1 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT WITH MALE -

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00258 261341Z

UNEMPLOYMENT AT 35.2 PER CENT.

3. NORTHERN IRELAND RETAINS THE DUBIOUS HISTORICAL DISTINCTION OF LEADING THE UNITED KINGDOM IN UNEMPLOYMENT WITH THE JUNE TOTAL OF 11.7 PER CENT CONTRASTING SHARPLY WITH THE PERCENTAGE RATE FOR GREAT BRITAIN (EXCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND FOR THE SAME PERIOD AT 6.1 PERCENT (REF A). MERLYN REES, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, HAS ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, SUGGESTED THAT, EVEN SHOULD THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR GREAT BRITAIN BEGIN TO DECLINE, THERE COULD BE A CONSIDERABLE TIME LAG BEFORE THE DECREASE IS FELT THIS SIDE OF THE IRISH SEA.
SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC REPORTS, UNEMPLOYMENT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760286-1086
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760723/aaaaatvh.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 11300, 76 BELFAST A-6
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING INCREASE IN ULSTER UNEMPLOYMENT
TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006